



Dear Friends,

The pandemic might have shut us all down in a public sense, but as we begin a new year, it's clear that many artists made good use of the time by creating new work.

Over the weekend several showcases of original creations and collaborations opened at key artistic venues across the state.

Portland Stage just premiered Richard Blanco and Vanessa Garcia's *Sweet Goats and Blueberry Senioritas*, a play PSC commissioned. Bethel-based poet Richard Blanco was excited to create a narrative that melds the culture and history of Cuba with the story of a Cuban American baker who lives and works in Maine. Blanco chose to work with multi-disciplinary artist Vanessa Garcia, who splits her time between Miami and Los Angeles. She told the Portland Press Herald that she'd never been to Maine, but "writing this with Richard, I feel like I have a sense of the people and why they love this place, I'm excited to put my feet on the ground here."

*Sweet Goats and Blueberry Senioritas* runs through February 12th at Portland Stage.

Also, this past weekend, Rockland's Center for Maine Contemporary Art opened their 23rd Biennial,

### IN THIS ISSUE

- **Maine NEA Grant Recipients**
- **Arts Infrastructure Survey**
- **Operations Grant**
- **The Cedars Show**
- **MANP Webinar**
- **Creative Ground Spotlight**
- **Additional Events & Opportunities**

which runs through May 28. The exhibit, juried by Misa Jeffereis, Assistant Curator at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis and Sarah Montross, Senior Curator at the deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum outside of Boston, features 35 artists selected from a pool of more than 400 applicants. CMCA's Executive Director and Chief Curator Timothy Petersen says the exhibit offers "a rare, sweeping view into developments at the forefront of contemporary art, through the works of artists who are locally rooted and globally connected."

And that's not all. This past weekend Space Gallery premiered three new works created through the Sonic Visions Fund, which is supported by the Onion Foundation. Commissioned performers and collaborators included pianist and sonic tinkerer Kafari and animator and videographer Dr. Scribbz (Jay Brown); Jimmy Dority and his indie-rock band Showmen's Rest along with visual artist Stu Dias; and Maine experimental rock stalwarts An Anderson and puppetry and visuals arts troupe Inventing Trees.

The fun continues! In Bangor next week, Penobscot Theater will offer the world premiere of *Trapped the Musical* by Los Angeles-based playwright Andy Eninger and Maine composer Larrance Fingerhut. Another creation that emerged from the pandemic, Eninger and Fingerhut have crafted a musical comedy featuring Maine's favorite crustacean. The show runs through March 5th.

These aren't the only examples of how newly created art will be featured this year throughout the state. So many of Maine's artists and arts organizations suffered through the pandemic, as we all did. But it's clear, as we start a new year, that they also dove into the work that drives them forward: creating art.

Seeds were planted during the past couple of years, collaborations, hatched, and now we're getting the opportunity to see all those creative endeavors bearing fruit. Make sure you get out there and take a look.

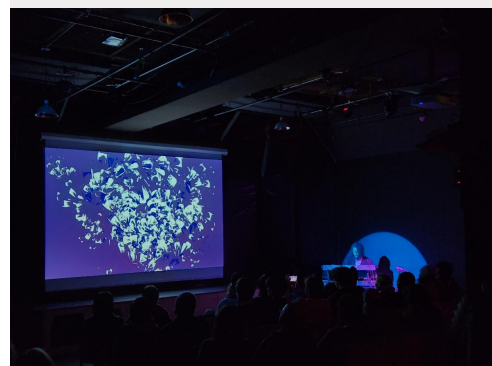
**-David Greenham**  
Executive Director  
Maine Arts Commission



Elyse Grams' *Paper Trail* documents a year's worth of conversations with the Federal government in her effort to participate in the student loan forgiveness program. The piece is part of CMCA's Biennial.



Philip Brou's 196 ink on paper drawings under the title of *Keeping Track of Time* record a place momentarily encountered while on the move. The piece is part of CMCA's Biennial.



Kafari's *Riffs and Lullabies* featured his music performed live and in-synch with video animation by Dr. Scribbz. Performed at Space Gallery.



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## National Endowment for the Arts Announces First Round of Fiscal Year 2023 Grants

The National Endowment for the Arts announced its first round of awards for fiscal year 2023. With more than \$34 million in funding to supporting the arts nationwide, Maine had one of the strongest showings.

Maine is home to just .4 percent of the US population, but received 1 percent of this round of NEA grants, totaling \$345,000.

### A big congratulations to:

- [Apogee Arts](#), Brooksville, Grants for Arts Projects – Dance
- [Bowdoin International Music Festival](#), Brunswick, Grants for Arts Projects - Music
- [Center Theatre](#), Dover Foxcroft Challenge America Grant
- [Alice James Poetry Cooperative](#), Farmington Grants for Arts Projects - Literary Arts
- [President and Trustees of Bates College](#), Lewiston, Grants for Arts Projects - Dance
- [Maine Inside Out, Lewiston](#), Grants for Arts Projects - Theater
- [Indigo Arts Alliance](#), Portland Grants for Arts Projects - Artist Communities
- [Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance](#), Portland - Challenge America Grant
- [Mayo Street Arts](#), Portland, Grants for Arts Projects - Folk & Traditional Arts
- [Palaver Strings](#), Portland, Grants for Arts Projects - Music
- [Portland Ovations](#), Portland, Grants for Arts Projects - Presenting & Multidisciplinary Works
- [Portland Stage Company](#) Portland, Grants for Arts Projects - Theater
- [SPACE, Portland](#), Grants for Arts



ALISON CHASE / PERFORMANCE

palaver  
STRINGS

CENTER THEATRE  
for the Performing Arts

Bowdoin  
INTERNATIONAL  
MUSIC FESTIVAL

Indigo ARTS  
ALLIANCE

POINTS  
NORTH (CUFF)

PORTLAND  
OVATIONS

Books That Matter  
AJB  
CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS OF BOOKS THAT MATTER

Rangeley  
Friends  
of the ARTS

MAINE WRITERS &  
PUBLISHERS ALLIANCE

PORTLAND MAINE  
SPACE  
ARTS. ARTISTS. IDEAS.  
54°N, 70°W

MAINE inside out

MAYO  
STREET  
ARTS

seal bay  
FESTIVAL  
american chamber music

PS  
PORTLAND  
STAGE

BATES  
DANCE  
FESTIVAL

MAINE CRAFTS  
ASSOCIATION

SNOW POND  
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

317  
MAIN  
COMMUNITY  
MUSIC CENTER

Projects - Presenting &  
Multidisciplinary Works

- **Rangeley Friends of the Arts**, Rangeley.Challenge America Grant
- **Camden International Film Festival**, Rockport (Points North Institute) Grants for Arts Projects - Media Arts
- **Snow Pond Center for the Arts**, Sidney, Grants for Arts Projects - Design
- **Seal Bay Festival**, Vinalhaven Grants for Arts Projects - Music
- **Maine Crafts Association**, West Gardiner, Grants for Arts Projects - Visual Arts
- **317 Main Community Music Center**, Yarmouth, Grants for Arts Projects - Music



## Organization Operations Grant

Our 2023 Grant Cycle kicked off in early January with the Organizations Operations Grant. This grant provides general operating support to 501(c)(3) arts organizations in Maine with annual operating budgets above \$25,000.

This grant can be used for:

- \* Facilities costs, such as utilities.
- \* Salaries, wages, and fringe benefits for personnel.

- \* Fees for artists and contractual personnel.
- \* Supply costs, such as personal protective equipment, cleaning and janitorial supplies, office supplies, art supplies, computer software/hardware, etc.
- \* Marketing and promotion costs.
- \* General overhead/administrative costs.

Award Amount: \$7,500.

Application Deadline: February 10, 2023

LEARN MORE HERE

Our staff is here to make sure you have all the tools and resources available for successful grant writing. Please contact the Maine Arts Commission (207-287-2724) for any questions or needed assistance, or [Contact Us Online](#)

## MAINE ARTS FACILITIES+INFRASTRUCTURE SURVEY



The Cultural Affairs Council of Maine (The Maine Arts Commission, Maine State Museum, Maine State Library, Maine State Archives, Maine Historic Preservation, Maine Humanities Council, and Maine Historical Society) has been in the early stages of conversation with the Legislature about a possible Cultural Facilities Infrastructure Bond.

Although the discussions at this point are quite preliminary, the concept is that the Legislature would look to seek approval **for a fund of between \$10 and \$20 million** to be used to help address the infrastructure needs of our state's cultural facilities.

The Maine Arts Commission would like to get out ahead of this effort and begin to gather information on the current needs of arts facilities throughout the state.

If you are part of an arts organization, please take a few minutes to fill out this **survey** to let us know of your current and anticipated infrastructure needs, and to share with us where you are in the planning stages for addressing those needs.

TAKE SURVEY

# Art in the Capitol Reception

Paintings by  
People Living with  
Memory Loss

**You Are  
Invited!**

**Opening Minds through Art** (OMA) is an award-winning, evidence-based, intergenerational art-making program for people living with Alzheimer's. The Cedars in Portland is the only site in Maine to offer this experience.



**TUESDAY**

**January 31, 2023  
2:30 PM**

@ The Maine State House  
Welcome Center  
(next to Security)

On display in the Cross Building and the  
Maine Arts Commission Building  
Jan 9 - Mar 17, 2023



[mainearts.maine.gov](http://mainearts.maine.gov)

## Make the Most of MANP: An Intro for Arts Organizations

Learn more about the discounted membership options for arts aligned nonprofits, and how the Maine Association of Nonprofit's resources, services, and programs can support your work.





### Allagash Wilderness Waterway Visiting Artist Program

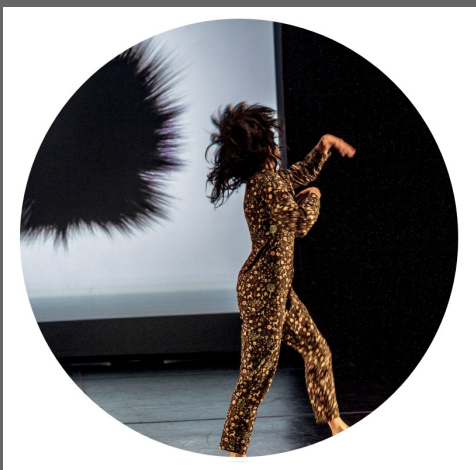
The program invites visual artists to the remote wilderness of Maine for two consecutive weeks of solitude. One artist and a guest will receive lodging at the AWW Lock Dam Camp for two weeks of the artist's choosing in August.

Visual artist may apply on the [AWW Website](#).

The application period ends Monday, February 6, 2023.



## CreativeGround Profile Spotlight



### **Aretha Aoki**

Aretha Aoki is a choreographer, performer, and teacher originally from unceded Coast Salish territory (Vancouver, B.C.) and currently residing in Wabanahkik (Maine).

[Visit Aretha's Full Profile](#)

Do you have a CreativeGround profile? Use this robust directory to promote your work inside and

beyond Vermont; your listing can include images, sound or video clips, links to other pages, and references. **Create your free listing today**, and check these **tips and tricks for creating a strong profile**.

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## **Maine Arts News & Opportunities**

- [NEA Program Funds Arts for the Underserved - Challenge America Grant](#)
  - [Golden Haiku Poetry Contest - Submit By Feb. 5. Cash Awards](#)
  - [National Dance Project Production Grant](#)
  - [Grant: Native American Language Preservation and Maintenance](#)
  - [\\$100 million Portland Museum of Art expansion to be built from mass timber](#)
  - [Public Art Challenge - Grant Provides up to \\$1 Million for US Cities](#)
  - [Winter issue of the Maine Arts Journal: UMVA Quarterly, is now online](#)
  - [Call For Art: Hand Me Down, Gallery 263](#)
  - [Calling All Black & Brown Artists, Applications for David C. Driskell Fellowships at Black Seed Studio are now open](#)
  - [Theater Residency Program, Deadline March 10, The Olive Street Project](#)
  - [People Are Culture: Anthology of 200+ Stories About Different Cultures](#)
  - [Springfield Art Museum Seeks Entries For Watercolor USA 2023](#)
  - [UMF Emery Community Arts Center launches semester "Tidelines" exhibit](#)
  - [Brickstore Museum Seeks 2023 Artist-In-Residence, Kennebunk](#)
  - [Call For Artists- 2023 Temporary Exhibits, Pen Bay Medical Center](#)
  - [Ellsworth Community Music Institute Seeking Program Coordinator](#)
  - [Two Bays Poetry Pen-Pals seeking poetry from Washington County - International Poetry Exchange](#)
  - [Open to All Artists & Writers - Vermont Studio Center is accepting applications for its residency programs](#)
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## **Events & Additional Opportunities**

- [Longfellow Days 2023: Travel-Aboard & Within, Brunswick, Feb - March](#)
- [David Mallett Band with The Dinalllos, Camden Opera House, Feb. 3](#)
- [An Evening With Bold Riley, Brunswick, Feb. 4](#)
- [Caravan Artist 'LOVE MARKET', Mast Landing Brewery, Freeport, Feb 5](#)
- [International Sculpture Center's Cultural Tours - Mexico City, Registration Now Open for a Warm Winter Art Getaway, February 7-12](#)
- [Ellsworth Community Music Institute Midday Concert, Feb. 10](#)
- [Future Phenomenology, Maine Museum of Photographic Arts Reception Feb. 10 - April 15](#)
- [Sara Juli's "Naughty" - The Strand Theater, Rockland Feb. 12](#)
- [Gospel Choir Workshop, Brunswick, Feb. 18](#)
- [A Walk In The Woods An Annual Exhibition Of Landscape Paintings](#)
- [Sweet Chariot Music Festival, Camden Opera House, Feb. 25](#)
- [La Francophonie in Maine Qu'est ce que c'est?, The Franco Center, March 3](#)
- [Portland Chamber Music Festival: Borromeo String Quartet, March 25](#)
- [Augusta Symphony Orchestra Spring Concert, South Paris, March 26](#)
- [New England Arts Opportunities & National Opportunities](#)



